

THE STEVENS FAMILY 2005 NEWSLETTER

The year was full of many events for each member of the Stevens family including an intimate wedding of daughter Kelle and husband Brian Behrendt, camping, sailing and hiking at Huntington Lake (See **Story Link*), extensive home remodel at Brian and Kelle's new home and later in the Stevens' home, trips to son Scott's home in Carlsbad CA, vacation travel by Scott to Europe and Hawaii, attending San Jose's First Grand Prix Auto Race, enjoying theater and Sharks Hockey games, discovering a fracture of Sandy's hip prosthesis, total destruction of our vacation and retirement home in beautiful South Lake Tahoe due to fire. (See **Story Link*) and yes, more loss of family and loved ones.



Kelle and Brian exchanged wedding vows as they became Mr. & Mrs. Behrendt September 3, 2005. Their family of 5 ¼ includes Connor (12), Brianna (14), Zachary (5) and "Cat".



Kelle is still at Quantum as Compensation Consultant and Brian is an RF engineer with MKS Technology (ENI Products). She still enjoys making elaborate scrapbooks, attending theater productions and spending as much time as possible with Zachary. Unfortunately, there was no dancing for Kelle in 2005. She and Brian did major work to upgrade their new (7-year old) home including wood floors, appliances, cabinets, paint and landscape. Since their 7-year old items are only "slightly used", I gladly accepted their discarded cabinets and carpet to re-use during remodel of our house. Their large lot is split-level with a nearly 40 foot drop on a 45 degree hill in the back yard thus allowing for unrestricted views of



sunsets. The hill is a challenge to descend or climb and Brian decided that one of his 2006 home projects would be to build stairs.

Zachary turned 5 on April 27. His new step-brother and sister enjoy playing



with Zachary despite the age difference. Zachary traveled to Carlsbad, CA ("Uncle Dotty's" house), where he enjoyed time in his hot tub and visited Legoland. Zachary is doing very well in his kindergarten class at Achiever School. One day, he was given permission to play the piano for his class and his well done performance received enthusiastic applause by students and faculty. It appears that his youthful shyness is wearing off. We hope he continues to practice and enjoy playing the piano for many years. He also toured the WWII aircraft carrier USS Hornet and the San Francisco Giants baseball stadium from top to bottom. Zachary has lots of energy and travels at max speed most of the time. *Keeping up with him is supposed to keep us physically active and young — correct?*



Scott (“Uncle Dotty”) left his job at Web Side Story after two years due to extremely long hours and non challenging projects. As an experienced Quality Assurance engineer, he was soon hired by Peregrine Systems, a well established software company recently purchased by Hewlett Packard. Scott now enjoys regular 8-5 work hours (Monday-Friday) which is a welcome change. After an enjoyable trip to Europe where he visited eight days in Germany and Austria (*See Story/Photo Link) with his 1979 host, the Kurz family, and two days in London with Peter Liebsch (former Stevens Family guest from Germany), he managed to find time to spend several days in Hawaii doing new things such as scuba diving.

Scott also made his first camping trip to Huntington Lake with the rest of the family and visited nearby Las Vegas as well as returning to San Jose for holidays and birthdays. The increase in gas prices convinced him to purchase a Toyota Prius (averages 48 MPG) and sell the big 1998 Dodge 4x4 pick up truck (12 MPG). Kelle also purchased a Prius in 2005 due to the many miles she drives.



Sandy’s favorite activities continue to revolve around Zachary and the precious short time they spend together. Some events include playing duet on the piano, assisting with cooking chores, playing school, and conducting “taste tests” (he identified Gala, Golden Delicious, and Fuji apples). Also, he likes to push (and ride) the wheelchair with “Ahma” when we visit places where she requires special mobility assistance. In early 2005 she decided to delay her hip surgery but later discovered that the steel prosthesis had broken inside her leg and a Total Hip Revision (replacement) will definitely occur in 2006. Tragically, Sandy lost a third brother, Robert (Rusty)



Trammell early in the year. Except for the long time to finish projects, including the constant mess, Sandy appreciates Ralph’s remodeling efforts and is anxiously waiting to learn about the next project. (*The kitchen was mentioned--again*)

Ralph received a call on March 9 from his Tahoe renter saying that he was sorry but he burned the house down. Fortunately, no one was physically injured and the beautiful forest didn’t burn. After considerable procrastination, mainly due to not having the fire insurance up to the proper level, the chalet was sold “AS IS”. Thus, the Stevens family is no longer in the property rental business nor have a second home in a beautiful part of the country for vacations and retirement. Ralph’s home projects included adding several of the Behrendt’s cabinets in the laundry room, painting, replacing carpets in several rooms and halls, replacing doors and upgrading baseboard and trim of doors and windows. He also tiled over the old red brick fireplace that was most challenging but diligence proved successful and the end result looks very good.



Ralph learned that “wet sanding” enamel paint with 200 to 1000 grit papers can produce “mirror-like” smooth finishes, another new experience for this 71 year old guy. The annual camping, sailing and hiking trip to Huntington Lake, with friends Bard Johnson and Wes Harrison was enjoyable as always. On the second night, Zachary asked to sleep inside the warmer camper van. (*One night in a tent was enough*). Country dancing, senior exercise classes, occasional motorcycle rides, working on his 55th high school reunion (2007) and lunch with friends are continuing activities. Unfortunately, he lost a distant cousin, Ruth Lynch Garner, whom, after 60 years since their last meeting, Ralph’s genealogy search found her and they visited in 2004.

More world turmoil and natural tragedies occurred in 2005 and we hope that reconstruction, peace, health and harmony will return for everyone.

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